

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE ACP MEAs 3
PROGRAMME

FUNDED BY THE
EUROPEAN UNION

&
MANAGED BY THE UNITED
NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME



ACP MEAs 3 Programme Partner

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SOME SNIPPETS

The ACP MEAs is an EU-UNEP partnership programme that began in March 2009 as an initiative of the European Commission to address challenging environmental issues through the implementation of the MEAs in the African, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) regions. The programme is currently in its third phase of implementation, aiming to assist 79 ACP-countries to enforce and comply with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste and to deal with issues of Ocean/Seas governance.

Key actions through the programme in the first quarter of 2022 include:

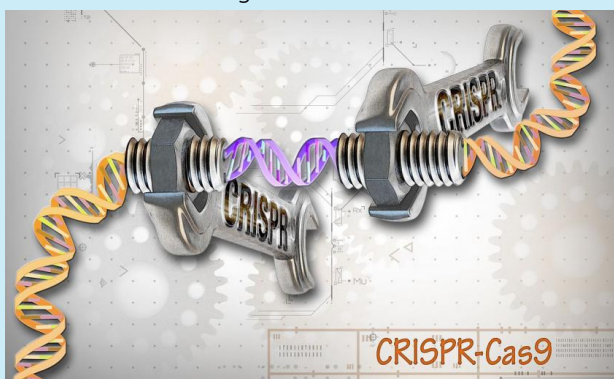
- Webinar series on promoting the science-policy-society interface of synthetic biology
- Strengthening national capacity for effective implementation of chemicals and waste related MEAs in African countries
- Empowering youth in the eastern Africa region
- Galvanizing political will in the western Indian ocean region for the protection of coastal and marine resources
- Webinar on the feasibility and benefits of a transition to mercury-free lighting in CARICOM
- Supporting community-based interventions on wastewater management in the Caribbean
- Helping Antigua and Barbuda in phasing-out mercury added products
- Training Samoan government on sustainable development in the tourism sector
- Launching ACP MEAs 3 youth engagement and training initiative in Europe.

Global Environmental Governance Perspective-the ACP MEAs 3 Programme

Promoting the Science-Policy-Society Interface of Synthetic Biology

Modern development in science has showed that investments in synthetic biology have gone up from USD 9 billion to USD 46 billion between the first quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been focusing on policy and regulatory aspects related to synthetic biology and is expected to make decisions on the same during the CBD Conference of Parties (COP 15) in 2022.

A number of stakeholder groups, including indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) have started to focus on the impact of this science on society in terms of socio-economic implications, including those related to intellectual property issues, issues of equity and benefit sharing.



An engineered mRNA CRISPR-Cas9 for gene editing. Photo by the National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA

In support of the above, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the industry, academia and policy makers, organized two webinars focusing on science, industry perspectives in synthetic biology (including the nature of investments) and policy and regulatory perspectives on 8th February 2022 and 8th March 2022. These webinars brought together about 230 interested individuals representing academia, industry, governments, civil society, youth and women's organizations where experts shared experiences of dealing with science policy issues related to synthetic biology and expectations from the policy making side.

Key policy and regulatory issues shared and discussed during the webinars include:

- The science-policy interface (SPI) and practice in synthetic biology serves as a good case study for further strengthening the science-policy-practice links, including by UNEP since UNEP has committed to strengthening the future of SPI.
- Noting that policies can either promote or block new technologies such as synthetic biology, participants suggested the need to pursue technology-neutral position and support investigation of all solutions, ensure informed participation and transparency in discussions related to policy and regulatory developments.
- Focusing on how synthetic biology is being considered across other multilateral processes, such as under the Biological Weapons Convention, the World Health Organization, the participants recognized the need for synergies in approaches and applications of the science.
- As discussions progress on policy and regulatory aspects of synthetic biology under the CBD, participants were reminded about the governance issues related to synthetic biology including on the need to consider ethics and diverse interests in applications and regulatory aspects related to the technology.

For a detailed meeting report, please contact Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati or Ladu Lemi at



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The Role of the Basel Convention in Addressing Plastic Pollution

In March 2022, the world witnessed a historic moment with the establishing at UNEA 5.2 of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution. The ambition is that the new legally binding agreement is adopted by the end of 2024 to avoid the millions of tonnes of plastic waste entering our oceans every year.



Closing the tap: An illustration of ending plastic pollution during UNEA 5.2

In parallel to negotiations over the new agreement, it remains crucial to implement already existing legally binding agreements that contribute to addressing plastic pollution such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

These development follows the outcomes of the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2019 which adopted two important decisions to address plastic waste, namely the adoption of the [Plastic Waste Amendments](#), and a decision setting out a range of further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention.

As a result of the Plastic Waste Amendments, effective as of 1 January 2021, certain types of plastic waste, namely those that are difficult to recycle (listed in Annex II) or are hazardous (listed in Annex VIII), will only be allowed to be exported if the importing country grants a Prior Informed Consent (PIC). This PIC must secure that the waste will be managed in an environmentally sound manner in the importing country. Non-hazardous, clean, and sorted plastic waste destined for recycling in an environmentally sound manner (listed in Annex IX) can be traded without applying the

PIC procedure.

Among the range of further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention include:

- The call for Parties to make further efforts to prevent and minimize plastic waste generation at the domestic level, including setting timebound targets;
- The call for Parties to create new technology and processes to reduce the use of hazardous constituents in the production of plastics;
- The review of Annexes to the Basel Convention by an expert working group to consider whether any additional constituents or characteristics in relation to plastic waste should be added to the Annexes to the Convention;
- The update of '[the technical guidelines for the identification and ESM of plastic waste and for their disposal](#)', and;
- The establishment of a global [Partnership on Plastic Waste](#).

To support countries in their efforts to prevent and reduce plastic pollution, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has also implemented several [technical assistance projects](#) in 51 countries globally covering Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe with financial support from the EU, Canada France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. With the new calls for proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot projects and the [Small Grants Programme on plastic waste](#), new countries will also benefit from this technical assistance.

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Focus on African Region

Strengthening national Capacity for Effective Implementation of Chemicals and Waste MEAs in African countries

Many African countries are party to continental and regional environmental agreements, developed to protect human health and the environment from impacts associated with chemicals and their wastes. However, most of them are facing significant challenges in developing national environmental governance frameworks that respond effectively to the environmental threats they face.

With financial support from the ACP MEAs 3 programme, UNEP Law Division convened a capacity building workshop involving participants from four African countries (Gambia, Mali, Senegal and Uganda) in Dakar, Senegal on technical guidelines, national frameworks, legislation and mechanisms for the effective implementation of chemicals and waste related MEAs. The workshop focused on the mapping national legal frameworks and institutional capacities in the four African countries on the management and control of chemicals and waste as well as the status of disseminated technical guidelines on hazardous wastes and chemicals management developed by the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions.



Participants during a workshop in Dakar, Senegal

Prior to the workshop, participants were requested to fill in some questionnaires on national legislation and legal frameworks which were reviewed and analyzed before the workshop. The workshop was interactive and provided an opportunity for the participants to



learn from one another through sharing of best practices and experiences.

The key outcomes from the workshop included a compilation of key challenges faced by countries in the implementation of chemicals and waste related MEAs which could form a basis for future work in providing technical support to the countries for the effective implementation of the MEAs, a compilation of possible solutions and country needs related to the effective implementation of MEAs at the national level and sharing of best practices and lessons learned at the national level among the participating countries thus promoting South-South learning.

Recognizing the importance of the workshop and the ACP MEAs programme in improving national frameworks, legislations and mechanisms for the effective implementation of MEAs related to chemicals and waste, the participants expressed their appreciation to UNEP for organizing the workshop and highlighted the importance in strengthening their capacities to effectively implement the MEAs. The participants highlighted an urgent need for:

- The development of user friendly and easy to use technical guidelines,
- Capacity building on the mercury waste technical guidelines; and
- Training and capacity building of customs officers and port authorities, technical and legal officers on the use of technical guidelines under the BRS and Minamata Conventions.

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Empowering Youth in the Eastern Africa Region

The ACP MEAs 3 Programme launched the Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) in 2021, with an aim to empower and train youth on issues of conservation and development so as to capacitate them to provide inputs to the post 2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



A group of youth mentees receiving ACP MEAs 3 programme branded certificates after a successful mentorship process

In partnerships with Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), European Union, OACPS Secretariat, Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Secretariat, high-level mentors from renowned institutions and youth environmental networks in Africa region, the first batch of YETI in the Africa region took place in late 2021, with mentees taking into consideration the important propositions in the Convention on Biological Diversity. The training emphasized on three themes, including resource mobilization, capacity building and stakeholder engagement to ensure the effective implementation of the CBD. As result of the training, youth mentees developed reports with guidance from their mentors on the three themes. The reports are now available in the [ACP MEAs 3 website](#), are on the following topics:

- Communicating Biodiversity through the Media; Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework. In this video, the Youth Mentees explain the first draft of a new global biodiversity framework.
- Africa youth perspectives on the wisdom of the indigenous peoples and local communities towards ecosystem restoration; the future we create.
- Directing the resources from the ecological debt between the global north-south towards effective implementation of the post 2020-global biodiversity framework.
- Generation of additional resources and re-directing resources for the post 2020 biodiversity framework in achievement of sustainable development goals.
- Opportunities for Capacity Building and

Capacity Development for Biodiversity Conservation.

- Youth's involvement in capacity building and development on biodiversity.
- Our special thanks go to the high-level mentors for YETI Batch 1, namely: Timothy J. Hodges- Professor of Practice in Strategic Global Affairs at Mc Gill University, James Vause- UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Reynaldo Morales- Professor at Northwestern University and S. Gopikrishna Warriar- Managing Editor at Mongabay as well as the ACP Programme Manager, Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati who also provided his expertise to mentored a group of youth mentees.

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Madagascar Reaffirms Its Commitment to Coastal and Marine Resources Protection

Between 9 and 11 February 2022, 41 Nations from around the globe and representatives of civil society and businesses gathered at the One Planet Summit for the Ocean in Brest, France, to commit for an action on maritime issues and to put into practice the shared responsibility for the oceans.

The Nairobi Convention was represented by its Chair of the Bureau, Hon. Dr. Baomiatotse Vahinala Raharinirina, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar.



Hon. Dr. Baomiatotse Vahinala Raharinirina, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar.

The Nairobi Convention for the protection, management, and development of the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean has its priority on addressing the management of marine biodiversity and other marine resources, addressing impacts of

climate change and vulnerability on coastal livelihoods, and reducing pollution entering the marine environment.

Through the support of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme, the Convention is enhancing the management of the coastal and marine areas of the 10 Contracting Parties to the Convention, namely Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

During the meeting, delegates made important and ambitious commitments including taking actions to preserve biodiversity, reduce overexploitation of marine resources, addressing marine pollution and mitigating impacts of climate change. Dr Raharinirina called on the countries of the Western Indian Ocean to contribute their commitments to the Nairobi Convention and join hands to combat marine pollution, reduce carbon emissions, sustainably manage shared fisheries resources, and contribute fully to an integrated ocean governance.


Madagascar for example has rich and diverse marine ecosystems which include mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, beaches, estuaries, and coastal marshes which directly support economic development and coastal communities in the country. However, Madagascar's marine biodiversity is already facing challenges from overexploitation of fishery resources, coral bleaching from impacts of climate change, marine pollution from marine litter and plastics, wastewater and sedimentation from river flows and from large traffic of ships and oil tankers, the Minister noted.

Hon. Raharinirina reiterated the efforts of her government, where 1,358,682 hectares of marine space has been designated as protected area and a strategic vision has been developed to promote sustainable blue economy for sustainable development. Madagascar is advancing marine spatial planning, promoting the sustainability of small-scale fisheries, strengthening the maritime security, and contributing to regional ocean governance.

The Minister affirmed Madagascar's supports for the proposed establishment of a legally

binding international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond the national jurisdiction.

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Focus on the Caribbean Region

Feasibility and Benefits of a Transition to Mercury-free Lighting in Caribbean CARICOM Member States

In the lead up to Minamata COP4, taking place March 21 -25 in Bali, Indonesia, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Clean Lighting Coalition hosted a virtual conversation with Caribbean Minamata Focal Points and national stakeholder groups in the region to discuss the feasibility and benefits of a transition to mercury-free LED lighting in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Minamata Convention on Mercury, launched in 2013, sets out to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic sources of mercury, and several CARICOM Member States have signed on.



A webinar for CARICOM Member States ahead of Minamata COP 4-2022

This webinar was delivered as part of ACP MEAs Programme on capacity-building related to multilateral environmental agreements through the Sustainable Development Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat. The aim of this Programme is to empower key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and to reap the benefits of improved environmental management at the national and regional levels.

The Caribbean governments and clean lighting experts discussed advances in legislative efforts driving a transition to more efficient LEDs in Latin America and the Caribbean, the availability and affordability of these mercury-free alternatives, and the overall environmental and economic benefits. CARICOM's Energy Officer Derval Barzey endorsed the transition to energy efficient, mercury-free lighting in CARICOM. It supports the principles of the CARICOM Energy Policy, which aligns with the pillars of:

- Energy Conservation and Efficiency
- Energy and the Environment, and
- Energy and Climate Change

CARICOM's Regional Policy promotes energy saving efforts in all sectors. It calls for ensuring that energy is supplied and consumed in a manner that creates minimal adverse impact on the environment. Additionally, it supports regional and national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector.

According to CARICOM Secretariat, the webinar was timely, relevant and practical with the contributions from Chile's Energy Ministry sharing lessons learnt from the country's transition to energy efficient lighting since their Ministerial Resolution in 2020. The Clean Lighting Coalition (CLiC) also presented a report on the Technical and Economic Assessment of Mercury Free-Lighting: Latin America and the Caribbean. This regional report (<https://cleanlightingcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/96/CLiC-Regional-Profiles-GRULAC.pdf>) presents data in thirty-five (35) countries including the Caribbean and 1200 models of both mercury-containing fluorescent and LED retrofits from those markets.

The information presented and the discussions were crucial as the Caribbean takes stock of the current economic and environmental issues. A transition to energy-efficient lighting would ease the region's dependency on fossil fuels and the growing burden on national grids, helping keep the lights on for more people. By switching to LEDs – which consume up to 50% less energy than fluorescents - CARICOM Member States can save 10.4 TWh of electricity

from 2025 to 2050.

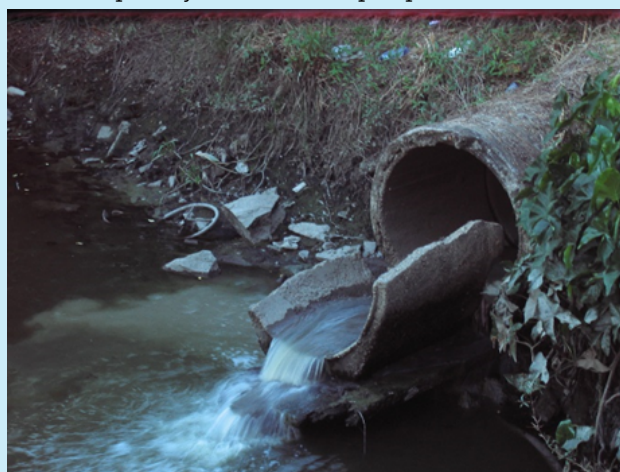
The Caribbean Hub of the ACP-MEAs Phase III Programme continues to engage with partners to promote the enforcement of environmental treaties and goals by way of influencing policies and legislative frameworks for the Caribbean Community, while targeting the region's enforcement and compliance goals under the Minamata and other Chemicals and Waste Conventions.

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Supporting Community-based Interventions on Wastewater Management in the Caribbean

The discharge of domestic wastewater into the Caribbean Sea is the major point source of marine pollution. Yet, the effective management of wastewater in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) has for several decades been, and remains, a significant challenge facing the region. Regional governments have long recognized that land-based sources of pollution from municipal, industrial and agricultural sectors and their negative impacts on marine resources are a threat to the region's economic development and the quality of life of its people.



Effluent discharge. Photo credit: GEF CRew Project

The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat has partnered with the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C) to improve wastewater management in the Caribbean at the local community level and improve national compliance of Contracting Parties with their obligations under the Cartagena

Convention and the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol. With the support of the ACP MEAs III Programme, GWP-C will manage a small grant programme for implementing four community-based interventions for wastewater management in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Dominican Republic and St. Vincent and the Grenadines valued at approximately USD 30,000 per intervention.

The selection of community-based projects followed a call for proposals for the implementation of innovative decentralized, rural community-based interventions, issued in December 2021 and which closed in January 2022.

Activities will focus on using nature-based solutions and utilizing wastewater as a resource to address the challenges faced in the selected countries. GWP-C will be responsible for preparing Case studies on these community interventions including lessons learned for further replication and upscaling.

Additional co-financing was mobilized through the Global Environment Facility-funded GEF CRew+ Project which will complement the community-based activities. This financing will enable GWP C to implement a range of capacity building activities including professional development courses, scholarships and workshops on Integrated Water Resources Management and Integrated Water and Wastewater Management. Further details:

- Website publication on the call for concept notes:
<https://www.unep.org/cep/news/blogpost/call-concept-notes-grant-funding-iwmm-projects>

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Helping Antigua and Barbuda in Phase-Out Mercury Added Products

Despite substantial health risks, mercury compounds are often added to skin lightening products to lighten the skin, making them illegal under national laws and the Minamata Convention. These violations are facilitated by the lack of e-commerce regulatory oversight, resulting in an explosion of counterfeit products offered in local markets and through online platforms globally.

As the world reopens its doors from the travel restriction measures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, hundreds of delegates from all over the world including representatives of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme partner, European Environmental Bureau and Zero Mercury working Group (EEB/ZMWG) met in Bali, Indonesia from 21 to 25 March, 2022 to attend the second segment of the fourth Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention (COP4.2), which aims to strengthen the Convention's provisions and establishing a framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the treaty.



Prior to the convening of the in-person meeting, EEB/ZMWG co-organized an on-line Pre-COP4.2 side event in collaboration with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (ATG). A virtual inception meeting was also held on 28th January 2022.

Eighteen (18) representatives from various government ministries and civil society participated in the meeting. Antigua and Barbuda and the ZMWG presented new evidence on the magnitude of mercury pollution problem and the legal/implementation reforms necessary to prevent illegal skin lighteners from entering the marketplace.


According to the 2021 data published by MIA, releases from the use and disposal of mercury added products is the major contributor to the release of mercury to the environment followed with the emissions from waste incineration and burning as the largest mercury source of emissions into the air in Antigua and Barbuda.



Participants during a virtual meeting between EEB and the government of Antigua and Barbuda

Given its expertise in dealing with issues of mercury pollution in line with article 4 and 7 of the Minamata Convention, EEB/ZMWG is assisting the government of Antigua and Barbuda, towards phasing out mercury added products, including skin lightening creams. The main focus of the partnership will be on the development of a roadmap for phasing out mercury-added products, conduct a market study for mercury-free alternatives, develop institutional capacity and strategy to promote mercury-free product procurement, develop a pilot project plan for the environmental sound management and disposal of single product stream and national implementation plan related to mercury-added products (MAPs).

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guideline training for the tourism sector. The three-day training aimed at improving knowledge and awareness of participants on the importance of sustainable development, the use of sustainable planning tools and understanding their role under the Samoa Planning and Urban Management Act (PUMA) 2004.



Participants attending the virtual meeting. Photo credit. SPREP

The tourism industry in the Pacific region has been facing challenges in the past two years due to the pandemic. As part of efforts to support the tourism sector and assist operators for a successful post COVID recovery, capacity building and toolkits were developed to support sustainable tourism. This training is expected to help Samoa to make sustainable development a priority on tourism agenda. SPREP through ACP MEAs 3 Programme will continue to provide these trainings to support more member countries in the Pacific Region. Read more [here](#).

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Focus on the Pacific Region

Training Helps Samoa to Prioritize Sustainable Development on Tourism Agenda

Monitoring of the environmental and social impacts of tourism is considered important and should incorporate into the Tourism sector development and planning. The Secretariat of the Pacific Environmental Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) held a joint Environment Impact Assessment

“Break the Bias” International Women’s Day 2022 In the Pacific

“Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow” is the global theme for celebrating International Women’s Day on March 8, 2022. For the Pacific region it is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of women across the board, measure progress made in terms of gender equality and most importantly plan concrete steps for a better and brighter future; not just for women but also for everyone. Empowerment of women and gender equality should be emphasized daily not just the commemoration day. SPREP’s Director of


Climate Change reiterates the importance of advocacy and engagement for enhancing the Pacific voice on climate change, with the inclusion of climate change impacts on women in and of the Pacific.



Officials during the celebration of the International Women Day 2022 in the Pacific region. Photo credit, SPREP

The 66th Instalment of the Commission on the Status of Women will convene in March with COP27 schedule in November, is an opportunity to convey and amplify Pacific voice on the continuous adverse impacts of climate change in the region, with greater emphasis on disproportion on women and girls. More messages on the Pacific's International Women's Day 2022 is available [here](#).

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The Road to COP 27 with Pacific-UK Climate Change Dialogue

In preparation for UNFCCC's COP27 to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) held a partnership dialogue on February 23, 2022 with the UK COP26 Presidency, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP), and the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP).

This dialogue brought together representatives of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), Pacific Leaders, Ministers, government officials, partners, and keys stakeholders. The presence of the Pacific despite the challenges posed by COVID-19


made a huge difference in the outcome of COP26, although there were shortfalls.

The discussions continue to build the momentum from COP26, and the fight for 1.5-degree world remains strongly as the Pacific began navigating its path to COP27. In supporting the Pacific region for preparation of COP27, leaders have call for further development of coalitions and partnerships with like-minded parties and explore potential linkages with non-state actors. It was also indicated that inviting the Egypt COP27 Presidency to engage with the Pacific region in preparation for the next COP is crucial. Furthermore, leaders have strongly advocated for climate finance to expand its definition to include proportionate share of finance for adequate assessment and realistic recovery costs. The ongoing dialogue and relationship with UK COP26 presidency are important to the preparation and building on to COP27. Read more details of the dialogue [here](#).



UK COP26 President with Pacific Senior officials. Photo credit, SPREP

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Focus on the European Region

Launching ACP MEAs 3 Youth Engagement and Training Initiative in Europe

On January 17th, 2022, the ACP MEAs 3 Programme launched its second cohort of youth engagement training initiative (YETI) in Europe with the aim of engaging with youth on mentoring, capacity building and providing

them an opportunity to be influencers of pro-environmental change. The roll out of the Programme also coincides with 2022 being declared as the Year of Youth in Europe. The overall objective of YETI Batch 2 is to empower a pool of 16 selected young people with sufficient expertise and skills to become influencers and youth leaders capable to train, support and empower other youth and provide inputs to global, national and local positions on pro-environmental behavior, management and governance.



Discussions during the Third YETI Webinar on Environmental Youth Engagement with YETI mentees and experts

To reach this objective, the programme is designed in three phases, of which the cohort already completed two. The first phase (February 9th, 2022 – February 25th, 2022) comprised orientation and training on key environmental issues. In this phase the mentees completed an InforMea Course on Environmental Governance, participated in activities organized by the European Commission as part of the Africa-Europe week and further engaged on topics related to pro-environmental behavioral change and governance in the webinar with the Global ACP MEAs Programme Manager Balakrishna Pisupati. Additionally, the mentees gained further expertise on the triple planetary crisis and pro-environmental change by reading provided sources such as the GEO-6 for Youth and participating in a range of optional events such as the Youth Environment Assembly.

The second phase of the programme aimed at providing mentees with further in-depth expertise on environmental youth engagement on an international, national, local, household and media level to bring about pro-environmental (behavioral) change. Sources provided included academic literature and hands-on access to experts. ACP MEAs

organized three webinars where mentees could engage with 12 experts on topics related to environmental youth engagement which included among others: Katarina Fortun (policy-analyst, European Commission), Swetha Stotra Bhashyam (Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Steering Committee member), Timothy J. Hodges (Professor in Strategic Global Affairs, McGill University), Aditi Tandon (Production Editor at Mongabay India), Emma Sairanen (Finnish youth as Youth Delegate for Climate and Biodiversity), Nibedita Mukherjee and Charles Mwangi (Co-chairs of the GEO-6 for youth).

On March 14th, 2022 the mentees entered the third phase of YETI where they co-author a toolkit on environmental youth engagement. In four sub-groups they currently translate all the expertise and insights gained throughout the programme in a common toolkit aiming to provide hands on guidance on how to engage on an individual, national, local, international and media level to bring about pro-environmental change as a young person living in Europe. Empowered by various experts and the ACP MEAs Team, the second YETI cohort is expected to finalize the toolkit by end of March. This toolkit will be disseminated among youth networks and organizations aiming at inspiring many young people to engage on environmental issues on various levels.

For further information, please contact Louise



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Forthcoming Events

- Media training in preparation for the upcoming meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions- 27-28 April 2022 (Contact: Giovanna Moire at giovanna.chiodi@un.org).
- Launch of ACP MEAs 3 YETI tool kit during the International Day for Biodiversity-22 May 2022 (Contact: Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- ACP member states negotiation skills training in support of CBD negotiations-

May-June 2022 (Contact: Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).

- Regional briefing sessions for Parties to CBD and BRS conventions in preparation for COP meetings-May-June 2022 (Contact: Dr. Balakrishna at balakrishna.pisupati@un.org).
- Launch of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat's 35th anniversary video on World Oceans Day- 8 June 2022 (Contact: Christopher Corbin at christopher.corbin@un.org).

The ACP MEAs 3 Programme Team

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Angola

- Antigua and Barbuda -

Belize - Cabo Verde - **Comoros**

- Bahamas - Barbados - Benin - Botswana

- **Burkina Faso** - Burundi - Cameroon - Central

African Republic - Chad - Congo - Democratic Republic

of the Congo - Cook Islands - Cote d'Ivoire - **Cuba** - Djibouti

- Dominica - **Dominican Republic** - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fiji

- Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Guinea - Guinea-Bissau -

Equatorial Guinea - **Guyana** - Haiti - Jamaica - Kenya - **Kiribati**

- Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands

- Mauritania - Mauritius - Micronesia - Mozambique - Namibia -

Nauru - **Niger** - Nigeria - Niue - Palau - **Papua New Guinea**

- Rwanda - Saint Kitts and Nevis - Saint Lucia - Saint Vincent and

the Grenadines - **Solomon Islands** - Samoa - Sao Tome

and Principe - Senegal - Seychelles - **Sierra Leone** -

Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland

- United Republic of Tanzania - Timor-Leste -

Togo - Tonga - **Trinidad and Tobago**

- Tuvalu - Uganda - Vanuatu -

Zambia - Zimbabwe

The Programme ACP Countries

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